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Optimizing Parenting to Grow Early Childhood Character Through Islamic Education in the Digital Era

Asnawan[1]✉, Mohtazul Farid[2], Khotibul Umam[3], Imra'atus Shalihah[4]
Al falah Assunniyah University Jember, Indonesia[(1,4)]; Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, Indonesia[(2)]; The State Islamic University of KH Achmad Siddiq Jember, Indonesia[(3)]
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Abstract
To develop resilient and adaptable children's personalities in the digital age, this study intends to investigate the application of authoritative parenting styles in this time period and how these styles are enhanced by Islamic education. The methodology is a qualitative approach with literature reviews, examining numerous trustworthy sources about Islamic values, parenting styles, and how technology affects kids' development. According to the study's findings, children can improve their digital literacy, control technology use, and develop their mental health by supporting an authoritative parenting style that prioritizes a healthy mix of affection and discipline. This parenting approach is most suited to Islamic principles, giving them a strong moral basis and assisting them in navigating the problems of the digital world responsibly. By the needs of the times, this method not only helps kids achieve academically but develops strong, moral character.

Keywords: *Authoritative Parenting Styles; Children's Character; Digital Era*

✉ Corresponding author:
Email Address: asnawan@inaifas.ac.id (Jember, Indonesia)
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Introduction

Parents are the main and first educators for their children, because children get their first education from their parents. Parents provide protection and discipline children (Gežová, 2015). Early childhood is a child who has a certain age limit unique characteristics and is in a rapid and fundamental development process for the child's life in the future (Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2021). In general, education in the household does not originate from awareness and understanding born of educational knowledge, but rather because the atmosphere and structure naturally provide the natural possibility of building an educational situation. Good parenting needs to be provided, especially in early childhood, because this age is said to be the "golden age," namely an age that is very valuable compared to subsequent ages" (Hastuti, 2012). In this digital era with extraordinary technological developments, parenting has become more difficult than ever before. This can have both positive and negative impacts. One of the positive impacts is that children can learn creatively to speak or sing faster because they listen from their smartphones. Meanwhile, one negative impact is children's moral decline (Nurfaidah, 2021) because they can watch unfiltered videos on smartphones. Therefore, the role of parenting in the family environment determines the values children obtain.

Wawan Setiawan stated in his article that children who are inseparable from technology need an appropriate education system, namely the "Immun Selfer Parenting

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Model" education system. This model emphasizes the role of parents as a companion for children when using technology so that children are not addicted to technology. However, this is not always practical as parents are busy meeting the needs of their families (Kholifah & Ratnawati, 2023). Meanwhile, Aslan (2019) research emphasizes the importance of balanced interactions between children's physical and psychological needs, such as security, affection, and socialization in society. Faisal emphasized that parents should control their children's technology without being authoritarian. This supervision includes checking the applications on the child's smartphone. In addition to these two opinions, Hurlock also said that in parenting, the right method is needed, where effective early childhood care in the digital era is to provide good examples by parents to children (Rahmawati, 2022).

However, Islamic principles offer a solid moral basis for character education in childrens. Islam emphasizes the value of moral principles, accountability, and self-control in all facets of life (Kamal, 2023). For instance, the Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Alaq states that morally based knowledge and education will create a well-rounded, decent individual who interacts with Allah, other people, and the environment (Adib, 2022). Therefore, including Islamic beliefs into basic education can help children develop into people who are not only smart but also honorable and have a strong sense of duty to both the environment and themselves.

According to a number of viewpoints, authoritative parenting by combining Islamic principles is the best parenting approach in this digital era. Authoritative parenting creates a balance between love and control, which is strengthened by the application of Islamic values in the use of technology. Parents are role models in utilizing technology for useful activities, such as reading the Qur'an via applications, while setting time limits for gadget use. This is in line with the principle of educating children to be disciplined and responsible for their digital activities. This approach not only guides children to wisely use technology, but also ensures that Islamic values are embedded through digital devices. Children are taught to use technology as a learning tool that supports spiritual and character development, not just entertainment. Thus, authoritative parenting patterns supported by Islamic-based digital parenting can help form a strong generation in the digital era (Astuti, et al. 2022)

The difficulties parents have when accompanying their children are becoming more complicated as technology develops. Nonetheless, parents can assist children to become wiser by adopting an authoritative parenting style that fosters constructive relationships and establishes discipline, as well as by introducing Islamic principles that prioritize moral excellence. This study aims to clarify how Islamic principles and authoritative parenting can be included into basic education to help kids develop flexible and resilient personalities in a society where technology is pervasive.

Today's reality presents a challenge to help children overcome their smartphone dependence. Parents express frustration over how difficult it is to get their children to stop playing on their phones while their parents are at work. By combining modern and religious aspects, an authoritative parenting style based on Islamic values provides provisions for the younger generation to become individuals of strength, character, and integrity. Children cannot only adapt to the demands of the times but also uphold Islamic morality in everyday life. This research discusses how to optimize parenting patterns to develop the character of young children through Islamic education in the digital era.

Methodology

A qualitative method combined with a literature study approach is used in this research. This method was chosen because it enables a thorough examination of a variety of pertinent literature, including books, journals, scientific papers, and earlier studies, that relate to the idea of authoritative parenting, Islamic principles in education, and the effects of technology on children's development. Information was gathered from credible sources that address how parenting affects kids' social, emotional, and intellectual growth as well as how

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religious principles might help kids build their moral fiber in the face of fast technological change.

With an emphasis on the use of parenting styles that promote kids' character development in the digital age, the study is carried out by tying the various ideas together within the framework of basic education. In line with Islamic ideals taught in the home and in formal education, researchers will use this method to determine how balanced parenting might assist create children who are resilient, have high moral character, and are intellectually intelligent.

Results and Discussion

The Role of Parenting with Authority in Handling Digital Trials.

In the face of the challenging digital age, authoritative parenting provides a useful strategy to help kids navigate a world that is becoming more and more connected to technology. With an emphasis on open communication, discipline, and love, it helps kids learn how to navigate the dangers of the digital world responsibly. Controlling screen time is a key component of this parenting strategy since it's the first step toward creating positive digital habits.

Device Screen Time Control

By establishing explicit screen time guidelines backed up by reasonable justifications that children can comprehend, authoritative parenting strikes a balance between restriction and freedom. For the rules to become a part of learning rather than merely a restriction, this method strongly emphasizes the value of open communication between parents and kids. Estyarini et al.'s research indicates that children's developmental capacities are enhanced when they receive regular stimulation, have their screen time limited, and access to content monitored. Both cognitive and social-emotional domains show improvement, highlighting the significance of parents' involvement in regulating their kids' digital use (Setyarini et al., 2023). Limiting screen time might also lessen the negative impacts of using a device (Muppalla, et all. 2023). As a result, this parenting style not only shields kids from the negative consequences of excessive device use but also teaches them the need for time management.

Additionally, parents using this parenting style work with their kids to develop a daily routine that incorporates learning, playing, exercising, and relaxing activities. Children learn responsibility and discipline from this method throughout their everyday lives. In addition to offering balance, a regimented routine promotes children's physical and mental well-being (Nuritasari, 2021). Children can use technology to its full potential under this parenting style without compromising other significant facets of their lives.

Fostering Digital Knowledge

In order to prepare kids for the challenges of the modern age, authoritative parenting strongly emphasizes teaching them digital literacy. Parents serve as mentors, teaching kids how to discern between real and fake information, the value of protecting one's online privacy, and the consequences of leaving digital footprints (Wiratmo, 2020). Kusumalestari et al. found that authoritative parenting combined with an educational approach can help kids learn how to use technology properly and recognize potential hazards like improper content or cyberbullying. Compared to children raised with authoritarian or permissive parenting styles, children raised with this pattern typically exhibit better levels of digital literacy (Kususmalestari et al., 2023).

Along with imparting knowledge, this parenting style also teaches kids to think critically and accept accountability for their choices in the digital world. Children and parents can explore the advantages of technology and learn how to prevent its misuse via candid conversations. With this method, kids not only learn how to use technology well, but they also develop the necessary abilities to deal with the challenges of the digital world.

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Impact on Emotional Health

One of the primary traits of authoritative parenting is a close emotional bond between parents and kids. Youngsters are more likely to share their experiences—including online challenges—when they feel encouraged and appreciated. According to a study by Erdaliameta et al., this method raises kids' emotional intelligence, making them more capable of identifying, comprehending, and effectively managing their feelings (Erdaliameta, et al. 2023). This is particularly crucial in the digital era, as youngsters frequently struggle with social pressure and criticism from social media.

Children raised by authoritarian parents learn how to respond positively and constructively to pressure or criticism. Children who receive emotional support from their parents are more likely to develop mental resilience, experience less emotional discomfort, and have a better sense of self. Over time, it produces kids who can handle stress, are more resilient, and have healthy emotional balance even in the face of a demanding digital world.

Islamic Principles Applied to Children's Education

Islamic principles offer solid moral direction for forming children's personalities. The fundamental ideas of Islamic teachings that can be implemented in the education of children are honesty, accountability, discipline, and compassion, such that the child's personality is well-formed (A. Erdaliam eta, R. Khurotunisa, Nana, E. Tohani, "The Effect of Parenting on Early Childhood Emotional Intelligence," Journal of Obsession: Journal of Early Childhood Education) (Nurhamidin & Buhungo, 2020). According to Surah Al-Alaq verses 1–5, science combined with moral principles is humans' first education (Abid, 2022). According to this passage, education encompasses more than just imparting knowledge; it also incorporates moral principles that can help kids navigate all facets of life, including using technology. Since children require strong moral direction to prevent bad behavior and use technology responsibly, these values are especially pertinent in today's digital world.

Applying Islamic principles to basic education can assist kids in realizing the significance of taking responsibility for their online behavior. Islamic principles in education can help children develop their character by teaching them honesty, respect, and integrity—qualities that are important while dealing with the difficulties of digital contact, according to Hernawati's research. This demonstrates that Islamic education not only focuses on spiritual matters but also lays the moral groundwork for navigating the digital age (Hernawati & Mulyani, 2023)

Islam's moral principles serve as a crucial basis for forming pupils' personalities to handle the demands of the digital age. For this discipline to become a beneficial habit, students are taught to be istiqomah in good conduct, such as making efficient use of their time when using technology and using the principle of habituation. Another important idea is role modeling, in which families, teachers, and the social environment set an example of safe and intelligent technology use. A strong moral foundation is provided by the teaching of Islamic values derived from the Qur'an and Al-Sunnah, which enables kids to use technology constructively and steer clear of harmful practices like propagating hoaxes and cyberbullying. Incorporating Islamic principles into foundational education not only creates intelligent people but also resilient individuals who can handle the challenges of the digital age (Darmiah, 2023)

Islamic Values and Authoritative Parenting Combined

Today, the best way to educate children is through authoritative parenting, which blends loving relationships with unambiguous regulations. This parenting style can be used with Islamic principles like accountability, honesty, and exemplary behavior to create a balance between contemporary and spiritual parenting in an Islamic setting. In accordance with Islamic values, which promote the development of high morals from a young age,

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positive personality traits can be shaped via parent-child interactions that are founded on love and guidance (Anggainy, 2020)

Children benefit from this integration as they confront the difficulties of the digital age by learning the value of upholding trust, such as when it comes to using technology sensibly, as outlined in QS. Al-Baqarah:283. This study demonstrates how religious convictions might affect parenting and, in turn, how kids behave. Children are more likely to have strong digital literacy when their parents use an authoritative parenting style, which includes fair control and friendly communication. Combining digital literacy with religious principles reduces the detrimental effects of the digital age on kids, producing a generation that is both moreDigital literacy is crucial for safeguarding technologically and culturally resilient people (Purnama, et al. 2022).

The employment of Islamic principles in technology reinforces the harmony between affection and control that authoritative parenting fosters. While establishing time limitations for gadget use, parents serve as role models for using technology for positive purposes, such as reading the Qur'an via an app. This aligns with the idea of teaching kids to be responsible and disciplined with their internet habits. This method guarantees that Islamic ideals are ingrained in digital gadgets while also teaching kids how to utilize technology responsibly. Youngsters are instructed to use technology as a teaching tool that fosters character and spiritual growth rather than merely for amusement. A resilient generation in the digital age can thus be shaped by authoritative parenting bolstered by digital parenting based on Islamic principles (Astuti, et. Al. 2022).

By combining modern and religious aspects, authoritative parenting based on Islamic values provides provisions for the younger generation to become individuals with resilience, character, and integrity. Children cannot only adapt to the demands of the times but also uphold Islamic morality in their daily lives.

The Digital Era Presents Both Opportunities and Challenges for Combining Islamic Values with Authoritative Parenting.

Children are at risk for a number of things in the digital era, including addiction to gadgets, exposure to harmful content, and unchecked social media influence. According to a study, using electronics excessively can interfere with learning, lead to emotional issues, and expose users to more uninstructive material. The role of parents becomes crucial in this situation. The answer to this problem is an authoritative parenting style that blends love, open communication, and punishment. By using this strategy, parents may assist their kids in comprehending the advantages and disadvantages of technology and in making sensible and efficient use of it for learning.

A strong moral foundation is established for the child with the ability to incorporate Islamic beliefs into authoritative parenting. Children who possess values like self-control, accountability, and honesty are better able to use technology responsibly and effectively. According to research, combining Islamic parenting with a digital parenting style can improve family ties, foster the development of healthy character in the digital era, and encourage kids to use technology more responsibly. Therefore, parents can support their children's use of technology as a tool for both worldly and spiritual self-development.

Conclusion

Instilling Islamic values via authoritative parenting is a practical way to help children develop resilient and strong personalities in the digital era. Children who get authoritative parenting, which places an emphasis on striking a balance between affection and discipline, are better able to utilize technology responsibly. In the meantime, Islamic principles like integrity, accountability, and self-control offer a strong moral basis for preparing kids for the difficulties of the digital age. In addition to avoiding the detrimental effects of technology, this strategy improves family ties and fosters an atmosphere that fosters children’s intellectual and

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emotional development. By adopting this integrated parenting approach, parents may assist their kids in using technology for spiritual and material self-development. In the long term, this strategy produces a new generation of students who meet the needs of the times by being strong, morally upright, and academically gifted.

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